

Minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of South Tucson, Arizona, held Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the City of South Tucson Council Chambers, 1601 S. 6th Avenue, South Tucson, Arizona.

Staff Present: Veronica Moreno, Interim City Manager
 Lourdes Aguirre, Finance Director
 Danny Denogean, Public Safety Director and Chief of Police
 Josue Licea, Planning Director
 Jon Paladini, City Attorney
 Greg Hitt, Zoning
 Imelda Robles, Housing

Councilors Present: Mayor Paul Diaz
 Vice Mayor Herman Lopez
 Acting Mayor Rita Rogers
 Councilor Anita Romero
 Councilor Cesar Aguirre (Excused)
 Councilor Brian Flagg
 Councilor Roxanna Valenzuela

Others Present: Luis C. Fabela (Victory Auto)

Mayor Diaz called the Regular Agenda Meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance, Land Acknowledgment and Mission Statements.

ITEM #03 – LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND MISSION STATEMENT

Vice Mayor Lopez: On behalf of South Tucson residents, we honor the Tribal Nations who have served as caretakers of this land from time immemorial and respectfully acknowledge the ancestral homelands of the Tohono O’odham Nation and the multi-millennial presence of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe within South Tucson. Consistent with the City of South Tucson’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, we strive toward building equal-partner relationships with Arizona’s Tribal Nations.

Acting Mayor Rogers: The Mission of the City of South Tucson is to build up this community through our mutual cooperation between we, the public servants, and our citizens so that jointly we can build a safer and stronger community. Amen.

ITEM #04 – ROLL CALL

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Herman Lopez. Here.

Councilor Romero. Here.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Here.

Mayor Diaz. Here.

Councilor Flagg. Here.

Councilor Cesar Aguirre has asked to be excused.

Councilor Roxanna Valenzuela. Here.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Ok, we do have a quorum.

ITEM #05 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Diaz: Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting February 21, 2023. Are there any additions, corrections, deletions of the Regular Meeting.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Mr. Mayor, on page 9 of these 50 pages of Minutes, I don't see anywhere, now this is when we moved into the Commission Housing thing which is different from the Council thing, and we left out Anita Romero as not present and also the Resident from the Housing. So if those could be added on page 9.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, so that's a correction?

Acting Mayor Rogers: It could be an addition or correction. Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Anymore? Do I hear a Motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2023?

Vice Mayor Lopez: So moved.

Councilor Flagg: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been moved and seconded.

Acting Mayor Rogers: As corrected.

Mayor Diaz: Roll Call, City Manager.

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Councilor Anita Romero. I wasn't here. I accept what I read of it.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Mayor Paul Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Brian Flagg. Aye.

Councilor Roxanna Valenzuela. Aye.

CALL TO PUBLIC:

Mayor Diaz: So the next one is Call to the Public. The Open Meeting Law does not establish a right for the public to participate in the discussion or ultimate decisions of the Public Body. If Public Comment is allowed all individuals desiring to participate must be provided some period of time to do so. Pursuant to Chapter 7 of the AG Agency Handbook, Sections 7.7.7; 7.10.1, and A.R.S. Section 38-431-01(H), action taken as a result of public comment will be limited to directing staff to study the matter; responding to criticism at the completion of the call to the public or scheduling the matter for further consideration and decision at a later date by placing the matter on a future agenda. Is there anyone that would like to address the Council?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, we have one speaker for today, Luis Fabela. It doesn't indicate there whether the person is a resident or not, but the address is 2210 S. 4th Avenue. Luis Fabela, you may approach.

Mr. Fabela: Good evening.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Good evening.

Mr. Fabela: I have a business at 2210 S. 4th Avenue, Victory Auto Collision Center, we do like the idea, between me and my business partners around the area that would like to see this take place. I think it's a very good idea. We would like to see more improvement, you know, as right now South Tucson is very nice than when I first moved in here. I see lots things getting better. And I think this is something we need in South Tucson.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Mr. Fabela: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you very much.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: That is the only speaker we have for tonight.

Mayor Diaz: That's the only speaker?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. The next item is Item #06.

ITEM #06 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPORTS OF CURRENT EVENTS

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Yes, Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Lopez: I want to let everyone know that the Garden Kitchen has their meeting on the 14th of March from 5:30 to 6:30, and there was also a clean-up at the South Side Factory on Tuesday afternoon. It was just a company clean-up. And all this with this Water Waste Management and they are having a function on the 31st of March from 6:00-8:00 on Dodge Blvd. What it is, is they are having a book signing to which it is about all the little creeks that exist within southern Arizona. It's kind of exciting because I am a part of it, and now it mentions that I grew up in an arroyo and at one time there was nothing but a big old pond for us because we used to enjoy the collection of all the waters.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Are there any more from the Council? Ok, moving on to the next Item.

ITEM #07 - CITY MANAGER AND DEPARTMENT HEADS: REPORTS TO MAYOR AND COUNCIL

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - REPORT RTA

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT - EQUITABLE TRANSIT-ORIENTED
DEVELOPMENT (ETOD)

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor, Members of the Council, good evening. So we do have two reports here from Staff. The first one is going to be from Imelda Robles with Housing and Development Services. I'm sorry, I should mention the other one first because I skipped that one. My apologies. The first one will be from Development Services and it's a report on RTA from Greg Hitt and Planning Director Josue Licea.

Mr. Licea: Good evening, Mayor and Council.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Good evening.

Mr. Licea: Thanks for taking the time here at this meeting. I just want to give a quick report here. We talked about PAG here recently. They wanted to provide some assistance to South Tucson, and I think it is an item here later on in your agenda so I will just be very brief with it. They did reach out to us and offer some assistance with some project management, and that is for some of the existing projects that have been approved from the RTA. We have five projects currently on the RTA that have been previously approved, and I'll let Greg talk about those specifically because that was before my time here in South Tucson. So I really don't know much about it, I'm just barely getting used to what these projects are.

Mr. Hitt: Yeah, so as Josue said, there are five projects approved and existing 2022-2026 which is the final execution plan of the existing RTA. One of those five projects was done, that's the HAWK, it's the mini HAWK on 10th and the Greenway and that was done, I think in 2021. That was through the assistance of retired PAG employee who did the project management for the City. There are two existing projects that are coming your way. I'm sorry, the next one is the 36th Street bike boulevard, bike Greenway connection. As you know the Greenway, the existing El Paso Greenway, was put in years ago to combine project with the County on Wastewater Project and it terminates about 7th Street and 36th. And there is a gap and now we have to connect to the rest of the (inaudible) which is in the bridges project in the City of Tucson, just on the other side of the railroad tracks. And so, we have been working with the City of Tucson to do some of the design concepts for the project and basically what we are looking at is a bike boulevard connection along 36th Street because the railroad tracks provide an almost impossible barrier you have to go up and over. And that's millions of dollars to do, to stay on the old original alignment. And so we have been working with the City to connect the Greenway because it starts in the City of Tucson and has the City of South Tucson gap there where it's in the old riverbed, so we would connect it just along 36th Street from about 7th, to the railroad tracks. And on the other side of the tracks the City will take it where they have current design and construction money and bring it to the bridges, and eventually connects the lines on the other side of Kino. It goes through Kino, the environmental complex where it continues to the east. And so we are in discussions with that. There are no plans to construct or design at this point. So that is where we are at with that. The next two projects are kind of the same, 36th Street. There are intersection improvements for South 6th Avenue and 4th Avenue at 36th Street. About a year ago we had discussions with the County to deliver that project, to design and construct that project, because there's quite a bit of money as you can see for each one. It shifted the focus a little bit because if you go down there, you can see 36th Street and 6th Avenue, there's not really much need for improvement there. There's already signals in close proximity so there's really no need to install crosswalks or signals at that intersection. Same with 4th, 4th Avenue is pretty wide at 40th and 4th. Again, not much need there, and so we actually amended the project a little to widen 40th Street, because again, 40th Street is technically the roadway, the right of way, but it has the width of about an alley, fifteen to twenty feet on it so it gives some of the people in that area cross connection. They don't have to go up to 36th Street, they can feel comfortable crossing on 40th Street. So that's where those projects are with the County. We still have to see where we are at with project management delivery of that. It's still a South Tucson project, but again we kind of lack budget managers, construction project management, so they were assisting with that. And the final one is the speed alert monitor signs. It's pretty simple, quick flashing light radar signs that, you know, display your speed. Sometimes they slow down if the sign flashes and says you're going over the speed limit. We haven't done anything with that but we've, Josue and I, along with the City Manager, we

have had some internal discussions on that and certainly moving that forward. And we will probably get that done. That's the update on the projects, the only existing projects South Tucson has, and then they are tied into Item #09 later on the agenda with an MOU with PAG. So I will entertain any questions you may have.

Councilor Flagg: So the 40th Street project, like, who thought of that? Like, what is the impetus for that happening? Is it development around there?

Ms. Hitt: The original project, the intersection projects?

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Mr. Hitt: Intersection projects were done years ago in the development of the RTA, '04, '05, '06. So that pre-dates my involvement, Josue's involvement. I don't know why those were chosen. The current shift in 40th Street is just, there is vacant property to the south, so there is some accessibility issues there because the frontage road, Benson Highway is one direction at that point and creates a problem say from Spanish Trail Motel, 4th, and so, it alleviates having some of the people go up to 36th to get freeway access, but it ties in with some flood control improvements and studies that have been done in conjunction with Pima County Flood Control District. They identified some flood control areas, and areas that need improvement. You know, railroad tracks are barriers at I-10, those are barriers, and it's relatively flat in the City so water ponds against the existing rail up ahead. But 40th Street was identified, 40th and 4th Avenue was kind of identified as a flood control issue. And so there was the ability to kind of combine some projects. Flood control and roadway intersection improvement improved 40th Street to make it pass, just two lane, that's all. It's not a huge improvement. I don't think there's money for sidewalks or streetlights or anything like that, but there's not enough money to buy land and widen it, so it's just making the pavement to its existing right of way width, which it's not near at this point. There was some synergy there to be able to tie it in with potential flood control project which the Flood Control District who would construct and install.

Councilor Valenzuela: Mayor.

Mayor Diaz: Councilor.

Councilor Valenzuela: So when was the last time that we had a project manager to oversee operation of these?

Mr. Hitt: That's probably a question for Veronica. The last time the mini HAWK at 10th and the Greenway was installed in 2021 and that was a contract project manager, that was a retired PAG RTA employee. He got sick and he couldn't continue that, so prior to that, I'm not sure when we had a full-time employee that was a project manager, I don't know.

Councilor Valenzuela: Do you know, Veronica?

Ms. Moreno: I was not really involved in that part of the City; however, I can fact check what Greg just mentioned to you and later on in this MOU that we have on the agenda with PAG, that is basically PAG allows the City of South Tucson to work with the agency, but aside from that the City is going to need a project manager for projects, so part of that will be working over here now with Corky and Pima County, that they have the resources to assist us with project management and design, so that would be something that they would help us with.

Acting Mayor Rogers: That would be good.

Ms. Moreno: We do not have internal expertise and set aside money in our budget for design and construction because it does take a lot; however, Pima County is able and willing and available right now to help us with those projects. So we can proceed with seeing those take place.

Councilor Valenzuela: And are funds available?

Mr. Hitt: Yes, our current funds show it should be available. Those are PAG, RTA.

Councilor Flagg: And Greg, right now are you on the payroll of Pima County?

Mr. Hitt: Yes, I'm a County employee.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Councilor Flagg: They contract out with you though, right?

Mr. Hitt: No, the County does not. I work for the County.

Councilor Flagg: I mean the City of South Tucson.

Mr. Hitt: The City of South Tucson does, yes, assist with zoning and things like that as they need it.

Mayor Diaz: Excuse me, isn't there development between 40th and I-10, the access road going on now?

Mr. Hitt: There is not any development that we've seen due to lack of proposals. I know there is some land ownerships that has changed hands recently but there's no active proposals with the City at the freeway.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. Are there any more questions?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yes, Mr. Mayor. I would just like to ask, are you talking about that blacktop road that goes straight across from the Food City over to 4th Avenue?

Mr. Hitt: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Is that 40th Street?

Mr. Hitt: Yes, yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I travel it all the time. I know for ages, and years ago, they were going to double it from a single, I voted for that.

Mr. Hitt: That's the intent with this project now.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Ok.

Mayor Diaz: Are there any more questions?

Mr. Hitt: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you for your time.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor Diaz, if I may add, I get the impression this is a lot of information because for me, RTA project, you know, they are complex and there is a lot of money involved. There's a lot of different projects that have been sitting there on this spreadsheet for quite some time. So I think it's imperative that we have the ability to come back to Council and give a more in-depth report on what that entails, and you can have a better understanding. And again, I know on the agenda here is a little more information regarding how PAG is involved, how monies are distributed. We can come back to Mayor and Council with more information, how all that takes place.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, are there any more reports from Staff?

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor. I do have a report from Imelda from Housing and Development, and this is regarding ETOD, Equitable Transit-Oriented Development.

Ms. Robles: Good evening.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Good evening.

Ms. Robles: Nice to meet you all, finally. I have just a quick handout.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Have I met you before?

Ms. Robles: I am about to introduce myself. I figured this is a good opportunity to do it. Good evening. My name is Imelda Robles and it's a pleasure meeting you all. I just joined Betty Villegas' team in January, and just a real quick introduction since this is my first opportunity to introduce myself. As I said, my name is Imelda Robles and I am coming from, originally, I worked 28 years for Pima County. Fifteen years of that was in affordable housing. Since that time, I tried to retire but it didn't work. I went on vacation for a year and then I came back to the Primavera Foundation where I was the Program Manager for Project Action for Veterans. And that was a program where we housed homeless Veterans throughout the City of South Tucson and all over the City, and it was a really good project and I'm really proud of some of those accomplishments. And so here I am, in training with Betty and I'm going to be taking over her seat coming early fall, possibly late summer. So very nice meeting you all. A little bit on my educational background, I do have a master's degree in business, my undergrad was in Public Administration. But really quick, I do have education and I do have experience, but the big part of me is that I have the passion for my community. And that is why I'm in affordable housing is because I grew up in South Tucson, so I got to experience firsthand what it is to be in public housing, and so that is where the passion comes for me and the work I do. And hopefully I will continue to work with you all for the coming years. So, it's nice to meet you all.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Ms. Robles: So a real quick report on what's happening with the ETOD Program, as most of you have heard, the Equitable Transit-Oriented Program that the City of Tucson is trying to launch that is going to be spanning from the Tucson International Airport all the way to the Tucson Tada Center, which is over just a little bit, I want to say, northeast of the Tucson Mall. And this is going to be about 14 ½ miles and the goal of the program is really to try to mix amenities with a mix of multi-family housing and even though the project launched last year, right now they are currently entering Phase 2. Phase 2 is going to be taking off as of spring

of this year, starting now in March, and going through the end of the year. Phase 2 is going to continue with outreach and do more studies on what the program is going to possibly, how it's going to affect the City of South Tucson. And right now where they are at is they are working on the RFP's to hire new consultants that are going to be working on Phase 2 and going forward. So that's kind of where they are at right now. The handout I just gave you is the most updated one as of March of 2023 and then towards the end of the handout it pretty much gives the results of where we are right now as far as the studies, what outreach activities have been conducted, what the results of those outreach activities were back in 2022, some of the information of what the feedback was that was received in regards to those outreach programs. We kind of got to see a lot of and hear a lot of what the people want to see and a lot of what they feel is most important, and housing is one of the biggest pieces in the majority of what the feedback of what came back. Some of the information was also regarding the data collection. Some of the information that was received was regarding transportation and how we can improve not just in going forward in expanding transportation but also in working with what we have now in trying to preserve the culture. That was a big part of the data coming from the City of South Tucson is that the majority of that was we do want to preserve the culture of South Tucson. So that was a big piece of it, too. Let me see, other strategies that are going to be coming are going to be more outreach and hopefully it's going to be expanding. I do know firsthand that outreach consisted mainly of actual direct areas, like only areas that were within that two-mile radius. Now they are going to expand the outreach to further, a little bit further outside of the actual two miles so that more people are aware of what's going on and the feedback can be more expanded. Yes, Sir.

Vice Mayor Lopez: How big is the expansion of the radius? Is it five miles?

Ms. Robles: Right now, as far as I know, it's just an expansion. They haven't given a number yet, but from some of the outreach that I heard was compared to before that now it is going to be more radio and televised information was going to be coming out. Before it was direct mailers and going directly to the people in the target area. So from what I hear, it's going on TV and radio, it's going to be pretty much expanded to all of Tucson is the way it sounded to me, but don't quote me on that, because all I have is just the report I was given.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Councilor Valenzuela: I'm sorry, are you done with your presentation?

Ms. Robles: Yeah, pretty much. I'm open to questions.

Councilor Valenzuela: Well, thank you, Imelda. I appreciate your time.

Ms. Robles: Thank you very much.

Councilor Valenzuela: You mentioned they are looking to hire new consultants. Does that include community-based consultants, or they are going to stick with the same?

Ms. Robles: I believe that it's like a whole new team and I do know that they have already received several RFP's that they have already considered, down to the last five of the ones they are actually considering. They are including local as well as out-of-state consulting firms.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok. And so you mentioned you grew up here.

Ms. Robles: I grew up here, yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: So how do you personally feel about this type of development? We've heard a lot that when we have this type of development, usually it displaces people because of property taxes increases. You mentioned housing, but there's really no significant commitment that we've heard from the City of Tucson, so how does that make you feel that people might be displaced?

Ms. Robles: On a personal note, I feel like it's really important that we grow with the way the City is. For me, now that I live outside to come into town, the traffic seems like we are having more people in it, but we don't move with the times like down the streets aren't light enough, the lights don't last long enough. You could sit at an intersection fifteen rounds, you know. For me, to expand this opportunity, I look at this as an opportunity for growth and bringing people into the City of South Tucson that otherwise wouldn't come in here. My thought is I want to help clean up and by doing that, I think if we expand a little bit more, we are going to bring more of a mixture of people, more families, compared to just what we see right now. We see a lot of homeless people on the street, a lot of people on drugs, you know. I think if we bring in more people from the outside, more families, more professionals, people coming down here just to have lunch, you know, and that way I think it kind of gives a more positive way to look at the way we run things in South Tucson. People aren't going to be scared to be coming out here at night. People can actually want to come out and have dinner with their families. So I look at it as an opportunity and hopefully it does turn out that way because I'm kind of excited. I'm kind of excited to see new things coming in and growth and opportunity for our businesses to make more money, and for people to want to come and live here instead of just, you know, driving by.

Councilor Valenzuela: Do you sit on any of the committees?

Ms. Robles: Right now I am a Commissioner for Pima County Affordable Housing Commission and in the past, I was part of the Arizona Built for Zero Cooperative. I was also part of the Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force. I've gotten to do a lot of work with the homeless prevention and eviction prevention, I've gotten to do a lot of that. I was a part of the TPC as a Committee member, I was on the Board of Directors for the Southwest Housing Council, so I'm very, very well informed on the rights of people and what we can and can't do as far as housing for them and the people's rights. And I was also on the Board of Directors for the Arizona Foreclosure Prevention Task Force. I've had a lot of experience with committees and you know, like I said, my main thing is listening to the people. Listening to the people, hearing what they want and actually acting on what they want to see.

Councilor Flagg: Did you take Betty's place on the Housing Commission?

Ms. Robles: Actually, Betty's on the Board too, and I am there as a representative of the City of South Tucson, and Betty is there for Ward 5.

Councilor Valenzuela: So we've done a lot of (inaudible) during our campaign and other reasons we got community engagement and we've heard from the community that they do not want to see this project, especially from businesses. One concern is they have proposed a different route. Have you heard anything about that meeting and that option, or is that a different route that will not go through South Tucson?

Ms. Robles: I have not. I have not. I know that if South Tucson doesn't want them here, honestly I don't think they are going to have a choice but I've heard a mixture of feedback. I've heard a lot of people opposed to it, but I've also heard some people very for it, like, I just gave a presentation yesterday for our community resident meeting and there was a couple of business people there that have businesses out here and they are

really excited to see, like I said, to have their wealth built a little bit more, to have more people come into their place of business. So it's kind of, for me, I just heard it both ways, and I totally understand the people that don't want to see it happening, you know. It's just been a lot of anxiety in what I am hearing.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok. Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: One of the concerns I have, plus what I have been reading, is that most of them benefit the developers more than they do whatever they're going to do.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Mayor Diaz: So my question is that the contracts that have gone out for bids for contractors 32:27 that do that, are they really, are they going to give you the pros and cons or just the pros of having this done. And of course, the other thing is that especially in Albuquerque, I guess, it was one of those studies that I read, that after the project was started, all of a sudden, they stopped there and everything kind of bottled up and costs kept going up. Are they anticipating some of this in their projections.

Ms. Robles: Some of the feedback that I heard, and it was addressed during Phase 1 that there were a lot of concerns about some of the projects that do get started and everything goes really good, but then the maintenance of it seems to kind of fall off the grid. So it seems to me that the City of Tucson was really working on maintaining the project. So like I said, it's not in stone but these are just kind of behind the scenes talk that I actually experienced, and I was witness to some of it.

Mayor Diaz: Alright, thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: I've got a question for you.

Ms. Robles: Go ahead.

Vice Mayor Lopez: According to their map they are going down South 6th Avenue. The good thing is we don't have no residents that live on South 6th Avenue so that is more or less out of the question, not unless they decide to buy property and build a home there. But either way I don't think they should be grandfathered, or whatever it is, because this project is already on the works.

Ms. Robles: Well, it seems like it's on the works, but I think it is still very much on the planning table still. And I think that's why they are trying to do more expanded outreach because I think there was a lot of, you know, feedback where some people didn't hear about it, and some people kind of thought it wasn't being transparent enough. But it looks like they are trying to address it.

Councilor Flagg: The City got a million-dollar planning grant from the Federal Government to do this, right?

Ms. Robles: Yes. Hopefully it's put to really good use. Any other questions? Thank you very much.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor and Council, on the topic of ETOD and transportation, we have two representatives with us here this evening and the plan was to have them be part of the discussion, introduce themselves, and their role in this project during the study session. They will have an opportunity to engage in and have an opportunity to explain to you what they do. So we can wait for them to chime in during that time of the Council meeting.

Councilor Flagg: Can we do it now?

Acting Mayor Rogers: That would be easier.

Councilor Flagg: Let's get it on.

City Attorney Paladini: If you are going to have them come up you want to move Items 10 and 11 up?

Ms. Moreno: Right. I think having it as part of the Study Session is to have conversation and ask questions where if we do it before it would be in specific terms. If you would like to move that item up, Mayor, you can do that on the agenda.

Mayor Diaz: Ok.

Ms. Moreno: Do you want to enter into your Study Session now?

Mayor Diaz: No, that's ok, we'll go ahead with the study during the Study Session.

Ms. Moreno: Ok. We are going to have more Reports.

Acting Mayor Rogers: More Reports.

Ms. Moreno: We have a report from Public Safety Director, Chief Denogean.

Chief Denogean: Good evening, Mayor, Council, how are you guys doing? So, just giving you an update on Fire Department and all the issues we are facing. On March 11th, both of our fire trucks were down from Friday night to Saturday for about a 12 to 14-hour period. Again, you know, our fire trucks are 21 and 26 years old. They're way outdated. We've been having problems with the last year of them breaking down. I see this problem as consistently happening as the trucks get older. We had to have TFD cover for that 12 to 14-hour period that last Saturday. On March 18th, for the front half of our shift, we did not have any firemen to cover the shift, so we had to have TFD cover the front half of the shift. That was again on Saturday. Prior from the Friday night crew coming off that Saturday morning, we had a fire over at 3030 S. 6th Avenue over at the pawn shop. Our guys did go out to that, but we also had to have TFD go out there and help us fight that fire. There has also been a couple of shifts where we had two people out there for the fronts or the half, so these would be issues that we are going to continue to run in as long as we keep depending on a fire department where we only have one full-time person and we have 30, 35 reserves. These reserves work for other fire departments. Their loyalties are to the other fire departments they work for. And so when there's basically mandatory overtime or situations come up when their fire department needs them, they're going to go where their fire department is. Or if they call in sick or have family emergencies that come up just like everyone else, and we don't have the back fill just to have someone there to fill in. We don't have the personnel for extra people there. So this is a consistent problem. It's going to consistently follow us until we make a decision on it, and it's something we need to address here soon. And that's all I have.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Would you tell me if you're, since you've told me all the negative news, is the two fire trucks that are like 21 and 26, are they now working?

Chief Denogean: They are now working, yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Ok, because I always like positives.

Mayor Diaz: Anymore questions?

Chief Denogean: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Moreno: We have one more report, and it is regarding the Citizen Advisory Committee at PAG, who is Karen Karl. Most of you know her, she usually comes to our Council meetings. I reached out to her and communicated via email. We talked recently and she got a job as a Judge, which is great. Congratulations to her. She wanted me to convey to Mayor and Council she did ask for a short leave of absence from her Committee duties, but she will be back in the next couple of meetings as role as a PAG CAC member. So we do have a representative. She has been out like I said, she got a new job but she will be back.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. The next order of business is, I guess we will need a motion to adjourn the regular meeting, regular session, and reconvene into the South Tucson Housing Governing Board.

Acting Mayor Rogers: So moved.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor, Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno: Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Yes.

Councilor Romero: Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Aye.

Mayor Diaz: Yes.

Councilor Flagg: Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela: Aye.

Ms. Moreno: And for the record, Housing Resident Ms. Ochoa is absent.

Ms. Ochoa: I'm here.

Ms. Moreno: Oh, I did not see you, I'm so sorry. She's here. Let the record reflect Ms. Adele Ochoa is present.

City Council adjourns from Regular Session and Convenes as the South Tucson Housing Governing Board

Ms. Moreno: There are no action items this evening. Mayor and Councilors, aka Commissioners for the Housing Authority, but Ms. Imelda Robles will give reports.

Ms. Robles: Thank you very much. Good evening once again, Mayor and Council. So the very first report I have directly from Betty Villegas is pretty much a breakdown of where we are at currently. Going over a few of our issues and barriers to leasing, our first one is we are trying to open up our waiting list. We are in the process of getting that ready so hopefully within the next two meetings we will be able to present so that we can have our policy manual approved so that we can move forward with opening this up totally by summer. Right now, as you all know, some of the barriers we have right now to leasing besides the opening of our wait

list is the vacancy rates of our rental units, rates are going up and that includes a lot of our properties. There are a lot of vacant homes that we do come across when it comes to our clients that do have choice vouchers for Section 8. A lot of the properties are not meeting inspection, so a lot of them don't even qualify to be rented out. So those are some of the barriers that we're facing. Some of the strategies that we have in place now is increasing our outreach to landlords and perspective landlords so that we can get the word out and we're starting an outreach program because I do come from the City of Tucson outreach. I only worked for a year with them, but I got to do a lot of real good training and I got to do a lot of good experience with the media, social media, trying to get the word out to people including door knocking, mailers, and anywhere I could get a free spot to get the word out to get some of the information we could get out there. And again, trying to expand our landlord base. We are trying to launch, which we actually have included in our plan, is the VASH and that is going to be bringing some of our Veterans into the program with the Director connecting them to housing, so that's another program that is in the works in the near future for our upcoming five-year plan. So the one that's in color, the handout, this is the one that has the information on where we are at with our current housing and as far as what's going on with the South Tucson Housing Authority. The ones that are in orange are fire damaged units and right now we are currently going through an RFP and we are contracting. Right now we are in the works of getting those repaired and there are a total of 11 units that were completely damaged from the fire. Some of the ones that we have up on top, these are properties that are currently being renovated. Some of them are actually back online but because we have not opened up our wait list, right now we do have a few vacancies open, but we're getting ready. We're kind of like going through a multi-faceted project right now where we are trying to hurry up and get these apartments ready so that when our wait list does open, we are going to be ready to start housing people almost immediately. So we are really looking forward to that. Let me see, what other big things. The first gray area is the family section starting with El Progreso, and that's the location that is on 29th and 4th, and the majority of them are already open, very minimal items left to repair with those. So that's pretty much about it. Does anybody have any questions on my very quick report?

Commissioner Flagg: Can people get on to the wait list now?

Ms. Robles: As soon as we open, we will be able to accept people coming on. We are really working diligently to get that wait list open.

Commissioner Flagg: In the City it takes years.

Ms. Robles: Yes.

Commissioner Flagg: Like how long does it take in South Tucson or can you answer that?

Ms. Robles: Right now to open the list, you mean, or once we get it going?

Commissioner Flagg: Say, whoever's like the last person on the list, how long will it take?

Ms. Robles: It depends on how many people we get. If we have about 50 vacancies and we have 300 people applying, then we're probably going to go with the first come, first served, and it just depends on their situation. We have people that get directly sent from Emerge or those that are victims of domestic violence, those kind of go up to the top of our list.

Commissioner Flagg: So you don't have a list right this minute?

Ms. Robles: Right now we have a list, but it's already dwindled down to I want to say under 20 people.

Commissioner Flagg: Really? So you can't go in and sign up for it?

Ms. Robles: No.

Commissioner Flagg: Ok.

Ms. Robles: And the hard part with that is sometimes when you do get to the bottom of the list it's already been years, so when you do try to contact those clients, they have already moved, or their phone numbers aren't updated and it's really hard to get ahold of them. And we do have to do our due diligence to try to reach out to them before we move on to the next name.

Commissioner Valenzuela: I don't know if I'm reading this correctly but most of these units that are listed are in the process, right? Do you have any vacant units right now?

Ms. Robles: Right now we do have a couple of vacant units but as we are renovating them we are shifting people to put them where they should be because right now what has happened is we have had the fire, you know, so we had to move people from where they were. Maybe they were one person in a one-bedroom apartment but because we needed to hurry up and move them, we might have put them in a two-bedroom or even a three-bedroom. So right now, once we put them back where they should be, that's going to open up the slot of being able to move somebody, a new family in.

Commissioner Flagg: I live and work at Casa Maria and like morning, noon and night people are tugging on my sleeve saying, I need housing, how do I get into housing? Can I send them down to you at 1713 and have them join the list or what?

Ms. Robles: We can't even do that yet. Right now all we are doing is giving out a business card or flyer saying just call every first of the month and see if we have opened it yet. But right now it's not going to be open yet for April. So we are hopeful, we're hoping to be able to get this issue onto the agenda for our next meeting and hopefully be able to open by the summer. So that's the goal.

Commissioner Flagg: So that's June 1st, what's the summer to you?

Ms. Robles: The summer would be June, July. But right now we are still putting the pieces together to be able to open it.

Commissioner Flagg: Do you expect a mad rush of people coming in and applying?

Ms. Robles: I don't expect a mad rush, but I do know that there is a need out there. We're getting phone calls every single day including the Veterans, including the Primavera Foundation, a lot of other non-profits, they're trying to send people our way. And you know that there is limited housing in South Tucson, so it is a demand.

Commissioner Valenzuela: So, the IGA that was passed with the City of Tucson, they can also refer people to us, right?

Ms. Robles: Yes, and vice versa. So we're hoping and we're really happy that's going to actually happen because it gives people more of a choice, you know, because we are so limited in our area that it's going to be able to let them go beyond and have people actually be able to come in from the City of Tucson.

Commissioner Valenzuela: So, I'm sorry, one last question. You said there's low inventory of available housing, group housing. When somebody comes to you and asks for help getting placed, what do you?

Ms. Robles: We have a list of resources. Right now the big one is the City of Tucson because they have their public housing, Section 8, open and right now it's open permanently where a few years ago it was only open for three days. So right now they have a current list going where right now it's pretty much the big thing that's going on right now.

Commissioner Valenzuela: Could you share that list with us?

Mr. Robles: Yes, yes, definitely.

Commissioner Valenzuela: Thank you.

Commissioner Flagg: So say you want to get in public housing in South Tucson, do you, are you going to give preference to agencies over just citizens walking through the door?

Ms. Robles: No, it's going to be a case-by-case basis. If an agency comes in, you know, with a single person and then we have somebody walk in just as a walk-in, maybe it's a single mom with two children, we're probably going to do it as a case-by-case and have the walk-in go up first because they have children. It just depends, everybody has different situations, and we really can't black and white it. It has to be a case-by-case situation.

Chairman Diaz: I have a question.

Ms. Robles: Yes.

Chairman Diaz: It shows that South Tucson has a low vacancy rate on rental units. Do you guys have a percentage of the rentals versus occupancy?

Ms. Robles: I know we do have statistics, I don't have that right now, but if you just give me 24-48 hours, I can get that information for you because I do know we have it.

Chairman Diaz: Approximately how many rental units do you think you have around South Tucson?

Ms. Robles: For all of South Tucson or just under us?

Chairman Diaz: South Tucson.

Ms. Robles: I know it's very limited. I know it's very limited. For us, what has been my experience is that when we do get good landlords that are willing, it's really hard to get them to pass the inspections. And I'm not just talking a floor tile. I'm talking stairs that becomes a safety hazard, that they need to be redone. But we're talking thousands in repairs for something like that, so sometimes landlords just aren't willing to do that.

Commissioner Flagg: Who does the inspections, HUD?

Ms. Robles: We have an actual certified housing inspector in house now. We are actually certifying so that houses are not substandard, that they do have good standard.

Commissioner Rogers: I'm going to have to say something, you know. Could you please give me your whole name again?

Ms. Robles: Yes. It's Imelda Robles and it's on my card here.

Commissioner Rogers: Because I didn't remember it. Thank you so much.

Ms. Robles: Yeah, I get called a lot of different things that are not my name.

Commissioner Rogers: That's what I was worried about. Thank you.

Commissioner Lopez: I've got a question for you.

Ms. Robles: Yes, Sir.

Commissioner Lopez: Is it a possibility that a bona fide Commission voice from the City of South Tucson and the City of Tucson would be able to have a joint meeting to make sure we are aligned from both cities so making sure the bridge is crossed over?

Ms. Robles: I think that is a very good idea. I do know that Betty and our City of Tucson Manager do have a real good connection and they do work very well together, but I will bring it up to Betty and see what we can arrange to have that happen.

Commissioner Lopez: And I have one more question, please.

Ms. Robles: Yes, Sir.

Commissioner Lopez: What are you doing Wednesday at noon?

Ms. Robles: Wednesday at noon? Probably having lunch, hopefully.

Commissioner Lopez: Well, either way, it's a project I've been working on with Betty. Since she's not here, she nominated you to be the representative.

Ms. Robles: Oh.

Commissioner Lopez: We're having a meeting with Pima County and they're going to give us an anti-smoking presentation that hopefully Betty will approve it, implement it in your housing policies.

Ms. Robles: You know what, I did hear about that. I did hear about that, Wednesday at 12 noon.

Commissioner Lopez: Yes.

Commissioner Rogers: Next Wednesday?

Commissioner Lopez: Tomorrow. Sorry for the late notice but I didn't know who you worked for or who you are or what you look like so this would be a perfect opportunity.

Ms. Robles: Yep, and nice meeting you all, too. My name is floating around but nobody can match it up to me.

Commissioner Flagg: I have one more. Do you know what the source of income law is that the City recently passed, the City of Tucson?

Ms. Robles: I do not know off the top of my head.

Commissioner Flagg: So here's the deal. A lot of landlords would discriminate against people that had a voucher and so it makes it impossible, or it makes it really hard for somebody to find a place, so they did that law and I think it's been upheld, like the state hasn't been able to get rid of it. And so, would that happen in South Tucson, do you think people with vouchers can't find any place in South Tucson when they're too poor?

Ms. Robles: I think what happened in the past and this again is my opinion, is that right before Covid hit there was a big issue happening where the rents weren't being paid on time to the landlords. Some landlords waited more than eight months for their rents and even though they are landlords, they still have a mortgage to pay. So, that kind of information started spreading like wildfire. So the new landlords started hearing, well, the City of Tucson doesn't pay their rent. And I think that's like the biggest stigma that we need to overcome right now, is let people know, yes, City of Tucson is paying their rent. Yes, the City of South Tucson does pay their rent on time. When we heard about that, and now, compared to the past, and I think that has a lot to do with it. And I think that's where there was a lot of judgment against people that had vouchers that they saw a voucher and figured, you know, because before, even a few years ago, people who had those vouchers were actually the guaranteed rent. So the people who were property owners wanted to rent to Section 8. Why? Because their check was going to be in the mail right on the first.

Commissioner Flagg: Right.

Ms. Robles: And over the years that kind of changed a little bit. So I think once we get all of that straightened out and let the people be aware that we are paying our rent now that they are going to want to be engaged now because it is tough right now for people. So an average person is struggling right now, even with two jobs they are struggling to pay that high rent.

Commissioner Flagg: So you are open to the idea that in South Tucson we could maybe use a similar ordinance like they have in the City of Tucson about discrimination?

Ms. Robles: Yes.

Commissioner Flagg: Ok, great.

Ms. Robles: I think that's great. Any other questions?

Commissioner Rogers: Just remember we not Tucson.

Chairman Diaz: Your small report turned into quite a

Ms. Robles: It turned into a big one.

Chairman Diaz: Thank you for all the information. Thank you. We need a motion to adjourn the Housing.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, we do have a report from our Finance Director but it's for the Housing.

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, Commissioners, Members of the Board. What I am going to hand out to you all is just an Expenditure Report. We are currently in the process of updating revenues and as soon as we have that completed, we will go ahead and distribute it to you. But as you can see, this is as of January 31st for Housing. You have three different funds in the Housing Authority. The first one, Fund 215 for those of you who are new on the Board, Fund 215 is Section 8. Fund 216 is Low Income Public Housing, and Fund 220 is for Capital Fund

Projects. I think you all can discern from just browsing over the report, the Housing Authority is doing a really good job of staying within their budget. On page 2, if you want to go ahead and flip over to the second page, I want to draw your attention to a significant amount, on page 2. It actually says page number 4, so flip that page over, the second page of this packet that I am providing you all with. Kind of midway through the page, insurance proceeds. Do you see that line item there? Betty Villegas was able to obtain an additional amount from the insurance company to be able to cover fire damage remediation. So she was originally given about \$600,000. She was awarded, or provided by the insurance company, an additional \$300,000 which is wonderful because we know that the estimates for the repairs were running pretty expensive and even though we have also planned to potentially utilize Capital Fund Project dollars for those repairs, you won't have to do that anymore. So you will be able to continue using the Capital Fund monies especially for CFP 2022 in accordance with the plan that you all approved. So I just wanted to brief you on that. Another big milestone, it was about mid-February, mid-February was the deadline for reporting obligations for CFP 2021. So Capital Fund Project for 2021 actually closes in the year 2025, but the entire amount, well, actually 90% of the award had to be obligated mid-February of '23. So Ms. Villegas was able to achieve that. Looking at this report here, looking at the section for CFP 2021, the unexpended amount of \$167,000. On that second page that I asked you all to turn to, CFP 2021, unexpended \$167,000. So Ms. Villegas with that agreement she brought to you all at the last meeting for the camera upgrade, the security camera upgrade, she was able to achieve obligating everything she needed to on this grant. So she is in compliance. The next award that we have coming up that needs to be obligated by 90% is CFP 2019. So as of December they had an unexpended amount of \$175,000 for CFP 2018, and so Housing is working right now to obtain quotes for those different projects so that the reporting can be completed on time by mid-April. If you have any other questions, let me know but we will be working on updating the revenues. This is just an expenditure report for you all. As soon as we get those revenue updates completed, we will go ahead and give you a complete report. And that's all I needed to provide to you all.

Commissioner Valenzuela: Thank you.

Commissioner Lopez: Thank you.

Chairman Diaz: Is that all the Reports?

Ms. Moreno: Yes, that concludes the reports for the Housing Authority.

Commissioner Rogers: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Mayor. I have a question. Do you know if the lights got done since we haven't had a meeting for a month, and you paid for it already over there? The lights, whenever we're working on the place, what we're talking about.

Ms. Aguirre: Commissioner Diaz and Commissioner Rogers, unfortunately I am not privy to those details as to status of what each project is in.

Commissioner Rogers: It's been a month.

Ms. Aguirre: But I'm sure Ms. Villegas will brief you on that. I'll make a note.

Commissioner Rogers: Ok, we need to know. Thank you, that's all.

Chairman Diaz: Roll Call.

Commissioner Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I'd like to make a motion that we get out of Housing.

Chairman Diaz: Adjourn the Housing.

Commissioner Lopez: Adjourn the Housing and go into

Chairman Diaz: And reconvene into Regular Session.

Commissioner Lopez: Yes.

Chairman Diaz: You made a motion to that effect?

Commissioner Lopez: Yes, I made a motion.

Chairman Diaz: Is there a Second?

Commissioner Valenzuela: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:

Commissioner Lopez. Yes.

Commissioner Romero. Yes.

Commissioner Rogers. Aye.

Chairman Diaz. Yes.

Commissioner Flagg. Yes.

Commissioner Valenzuela. Aye.

Commissioner Ochoa. Yes.

Ms. Moreno: I'm sorry, I meant to say Commissioners, I'm used to saying Councilors.

Commissioner Rogers: Did we take note that there is a person missing from this meeting?

Commissioner Valenzuela: Cesar.

Chairman Diaz: Yes, we did.

City Council Adjourns from Housing Session and convenes as the City Council into Regular Session

ITEM #08 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-07 OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FIVE NATIONAL PHARMACIES AS SETTLEMENT FOR IN RE: NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION OPIATE LITIGATION, CASE NO. 17-MD-2804 (N.D. OHIO), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY TO EXIST

Mayor Diaz: This is a motion for Resolution No. 23-07 (Mayor Diaz read the Resolution as stated above). Do I hear a Second?

Acting Mayor Rogers: How about a Move?

Mayor Diaz: I did. I moved it. Can I have a Second?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Acting Mayor Rogers: It's been Seconded by Herman if you moved it.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, is there any discussion on the Motion that says approving the settlement, so if there's no discussion, Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Councilor Romero. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Yes.

Councilor Flagg. Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela. Aye.

Mayor Diaz: Motion passes. Thank you. The next is Item #09.

ITEM #09 - RESOLUTION NO. 23-08 OF THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON, ARIZONA, TO APPROVE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON AND PIMA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS ("PAG") FOR PROGRAMMING AND FUNDING OF PROJECT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF SOUTH TUCSON CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO SAID CONTRACT

Mayor Diaz: I move the Resolution No. 23-08 (Mayor Diaz read the Resolution as stated above). That's the Motion, so is there a Second?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Second.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. There's a Move and a Second. Any discussion on the Motion?

Councilor Flagg: Is there a dollar amount on this?

Ms. Moreno: Mayor Diaz and Councilor Flagg, I will introduce once again Greg Hitt who is our in-house expert. He is our contractor and very familiar with the projects and how they work. He will provide you with the costs associated.

Mr. Hitt: Thank you, Mayor, Councilmembers. To answer your question, there is no cost with it. It is just a Memorandum of Understanding. It's the first step between the City and PAG to move the projects into design and construction. So it's just a simple understanding agreement type of document, but no cost to the City, but it is required by PAG to proceed.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Sounds good.

Mayor Diaz: Is there any more discussion? Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno: Thank you, Greg. Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Councilor Romero. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Yes.

Councilor Flagg. Yes.

Councilor Valenzuela. Aye.

Mayor Diaz: So the next item is Item #10.

ITEM #10 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL: STUDY SESSION - IMPACT STUDY

Mayor Diaz: So at this time the Study Session will be in regard to the Impact Study that was passed before, giving permission to at least start on the process of an Impact Study. So it's kind of like during this study session we can have a discussion in regard to what the project consists, what we would like the project to consist, and also a kind of a projected, well, the study should include only items that were, that really pertain to South Tucson. And the other thing is that the scope of study that we would like to put out for an RFP, so if we are thinking of this as we more or less identified, or some of us have identified through the issues, that we can list those issues and also some of the discussion and background with regards to the impact study. So I call on each individual. Please have some input. So I'll call on Mr. Vice Mayor Lopez. Would you like to express what you would like to see in regard to the scope?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Well, actually, I think this idea of your impact study that you wanted is something that's going to be needed but I think for us I think that for us we should be focusing on the businesses on South 6th Avenue that are going to be affected mostly on this project and priorities necessary, shift the neighborhoods to see how they feel about this issue because they may or may not like that, this transportation opportunity that we have, but I feel that we should follow it up and continue pushing it up to make it a realization to our community.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. Did you want to list the items that you have in regard to what you would like to say, I guess, gentrification and so forth that you have?

Vice Mayor Lopez: Well, I don't believe in gentrification, so I just figure that, no.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, thank you. Councilor Romero, would you like to

Councilor Romero: No.

Acting Mayor Rogers: She wasn't here, she doesn't know what we're talking about.

Mayor Diaz: Councilor Rita Rogers.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Oh, I think we are going to have, I don't know what you're doing here. You want some discussion and direction. The discussion is we are going to get some people involved in this other than the Council, that the people I've known for the last six years of me being on this budget and all this kind of thing, and that's what I want.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Acting Mayor Rogers: I know everybody here wants the people, we need the people, the people that are out in the City that I see every day.

Councilor Flagg: Thank you.

Councilor Rogers: From Church to stores, to everywhere. So that's my offering.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, and I agree with the public being the utmost important in regard to this impact study. They need to be informed of what's going on and also with their input they'll be justified in the end where if they do have an issue, that issue is at least looked at and resolved at the end and that should be part of the scope of

the study. We'll put in the RFP that the public is the most important and that includes businesses and everybody, really. So that's my comment in regard to Councilor Rogers' input. Councilor Flagg?

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, I along with a lot of people I know have interest in gentrification and housing and along those lines the issue of crime and the worst slumlord in our one square mile, they've got to go, that guy's got to go, like now, not in the future sometime. Now. The slumlord needs to go. So those issues and overriding it would be economic development so we have revenue so that we can have, like I've heard the Chief come in here and talk about how his cops are the lowest paid in the whole state. And something needs to be done about it, and then we need to like, do something about fire, so we have a whole lot of needs that need to be addressed. And I really like what Rita Rogers, Councilwoman Rogers said, and the way I would kind of state it would be that we have all kinds of expertise in our community, in our one square mile. Even if it's not a bunch of people like eggheads that have PhD's from the U of A. It's normal people with common sense that live here, kind of like what Rita said. So I don't think that we need to go out and hire in South Tucson, the place with the lowest paid cops on earth, like, a consultant. I don't think we need to waste money on a consultant. We can do it in-house. We can do it in-barrio. We know the people. She said it, I said it. I look around here, people know what the deal is. We're the experts on this 1.2 square mile barrio. So, we can do it in-house, and I think that we need to proceed with these things with an economic development is really important, so we have revenue to be a thriving right-on city. Is that good?

Acting Mayor Rogers: That's good.

Councilor Valenzuela: So, I tend to agree with Rita and Brian. I think we should look into creating a committee with businesses, residents, and that we collect that input from our community. I do think we need to save our resources even though I appreciate that the City of Tucson coming in and doing these studies, they tend to sway a certain way when they are not being conducted by us. So I do believe that it should start with us, and yeah, I would like to see a committee created within our City. So I agree.

Mayor Diaz: Ok, so between the City Manager and myself, we will combine these concerns together and at the next Council meeting we will go ahead and give a report of the pros and cons of this and also to include the listing of what we heard from the Council people so far, because we haven't included the public on this yet, but this is going to be part of the ongoing process of us letting the public know what we are doing.

Councilor Valenzuela: What do you mean by the pros and cons?

Mayor Diaz: Excuse me?

Councilor Valenzuela: What do you mean, come back with the pros and cons?

Mayor Diaz: We are going to make what was said here into some kind of form, ok, and then bring it back to the Council. So this is what we have in respect to input of the Council and then we will go ahead with the next step of informing the public of what we're doing. And then from there, we will go for more direction as far as the Council and the community.

Councilor Valenzuela: I mean, it was already laid out. We could make a Motion to create a committee.

Mayor Diaz: It's part of a, the agenda doesn't require, ask for a motion, it's just direction.

City Attorney Paladini: It's a Study Session.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok.

Vice Mayor Rogers: It's in the Mission Statement.

Mayor Diaz: Well, yeah.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you. We completed Item #10, go to #11.

ITEM #11 - MAYOR AND COUNCIL: DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION REGARDING RTA/RTA NEXT

Mayor Diaz: Is that what it is? Mr. Flagg, would you like to address that? Commissioner Flagg?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Councilor.

Councilor Flagg: You want to do it? I'm blacked out.

Councilor Valenzuela: I'll go ahead and comment. I wasn't here for the last Council meeting, but my understanding is Councilor Flagg wanted to get a report for the RTA and RTA Next so that we as a Council are engaged and are updated on what's going on, and that you, Mayor Paul Diaz, on the RTA committee, represent the will of the Council at those meetings. And so that's my understanding of the discussion so we want to be represented as a body, not just a sole person, to the RTA Board.

Councilor Flagg: And to add to that, if you watch City of Tucson Council meetings, the Mayor goes to the Council people on a regular basis and says, what are the RTA issues to us as a City? And she gets a bunch of different feedback, and she says, because I want to get my colleagues' input on this so I can take it back to the next RTA Board meeting, which Mayor Diaz sits on the Board. So we want to make sure that we as, we want to make a policy, right, so that our Mayor, our representative, goes back there and lays out the will of the decisions we make as the City of South Tucson City Council. Is that right?

Councilor Valenzuela: Yeah.

Mayor Diaz: My response is if I could, my understanding of the RTA, and that's regional, so my representation at the regional is information already received from the various committees and we have representatives in those committees in regard to the RTA. And the other meetings through the RTA, whether it's committee meetings or all that, they're on YouTube and people can access those particular committees through YouTube, and as far as by the time it gets to the Board, the RTA Board, it's on their agenda and some of it's already in the consensus category. So the real issues are again, right now, like it was explained before, it's the last part of the three 20-year project and that's it. That's what the Board is going to discuss on the 23rd. So, I don't understand that the information that should be directed at those committees should be to those committee members so they can do it at that point, and then at that point, it gets on the agenda for the Board. So as far as the will of South Tucson, it should already be in there and it should already be an issue that it's a willful RTA issue, not a regional issue.

Councilor Valenzuela: So what you are saying is that you will take direction from those committee members.

Mayor Diaz: Excuse me?

Councilor Valenzuela: So what you are saying is that you will go represent the wishes of the committee members, not the Council?

Mayor Diaz: No, the committee members should have the input of the Council what you want, at that time it gets presented at that level, the committee level, and then it gets turned around and brought to the Board.

Councilor Valenzuela: I would like to see this issue put on the next agenda for another discussion and direction to create policy on possibly giving direction to Mayor to change that way of operating.

Mayor Diaz: I don't understand your comment that it still has to be a Council decision in regard to

Councilor Valenzuela: I think we should explore options to change the policy, because what I am hearing is that you are wanting to do things a certain way and just listen to what the committee members are saying and there's no room for our Council to be on the committees. So he is representing us, right? So I would like to get more involved in it and I would like the Mayor, who has the ability to make the vote, to represent us, the representatives of the City. That's all.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Moreno: Mayor, if I may just do a recap. Councilor Valenzuela, it's my understanding that you are asking that the Council establishes a policy.

Councilor Valenzuela: yes.

Ms. Moreno: And the items relating to RTA come through this governing body with concurrence or consensus, so that way when it gets to the regional level, there's input from all of you and then there's a consensus so that by the time it gets to the regional level for a vote then the Mayor will go with that vote, which is the consensus of this governing body. Does that make sense?

Councilor Valenzuela: Correct, yes.

Ms. Moreno: If I could, let me turn my back to you and go off grid. I'm going to ask Greg, are you familiar with this? Would you mind helping me out a little bit?

Mr. Hitt: The regional council, yes. So what is the direct question, I guess, so I can help answer it.

Acting Mayor Rogers: There's no question.

City Attorney Paladini: What's the structure of the RTA Commission and then the subcommittees or the committees from that?

Mr. Hitt: So, I've been in previous roles in other positions I've had, I've been committee member on some of these environmental, EPAC, Environmental Planning Advisory Committee, so I have been on some of those in the past as a committee member. So, you have a lot of subcommittees that because Patten, Metropolitan Planning Organization, that's a federal mandate and a lot of it is transportation funding and things like that. The Regional Planning Agency for transportation related projects, EPA, Water, environmental programs, funnel down through PAG and the laws and the planning side of that goes through PAG. So Tucson Water, Pima County Wastewater, all the DOT's, they have roles and committees, and they are staffed by usually city, county, government level staff people. The Citizens Advisory members, or the Citizens Advisory Committee which you heard about earlier, so they are really the advisor because those are specific experts, if you will, in those topics and those mandates, so they meet monthly, quarterly, whatever it is. And then they kind of set policy and guidelines for the region on how those things are applied. And a lot of their things do funnel through the regional advisory committee, is that what it is?

Ms. Moreno: Yes.

Mr. Hitt: Yes, regional advisory committee which the Mayor and all the Mayors of all the other jurisdictions, I think ADOT has a member on it as well, and so they are the policy makers for PAG, just like you guys are for the City of South Tucson. And so a lot of those funnels through to that when they require legislative action. And so you are a square mile in size but you have the same voting power the way it is structured at this time as does the City of Tucson, Oro Valley, Sahuarita and do all the other jurisdictions, so yes, some of those items are distilled and really focused on in these subcommittees but then still things are voted on by the jurisdictions and its members at that Regional Advisory Committee meeting. I think the next one is on Thursday. The MOU we discussed earlier in this meeting is on that agenda. So you as policy makers authorized the City Manager to sign it. PAG, through that Regional Advisory Committee, is going to authorize for the Director of PAG to sign that for PAG. Things like that are still decided at that level, but the Regional Advisory Committee is the Council equivalent of PAG.

City Attorney Paladini: Is that the same as the Regional Transit Authority, RTA? That's what you're asking about, right?

Mr. Hitt: The RTA is the Regional Transit Authority. That was a voter-initiated thing back in 2006. It will be up again in 2026 and that's another component of PAG. It's administered by PAG, they collect all the sales taxes, they did the regional set up on projects, identifying projects, distributing the funding of that, distribution of money. There's a whole bunch of formulas behind all that happening. Each entity has based on size, an even still a percentage, one percent, but still it comes back. That's RTA. It's a component and it's kind of a separate but similar type entity as PAG.

City Attorney Paladini: Is there a Board of the RTA?

Mr. Hitt: Yes. They are comprised of the same members as the regional. It's one in the same but like you guys do with the Housing Authority, right?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yeah.

Mr. Hitt: As City Council, you adjourn the Housing Committee then you adjourn. So it's a pretty similar function in that aspect.

City Attorney Paladini: So if I may whittle this down, if there are items that come before the RTA as the Board sits as the RTA, obviously it's like public open meeting laws, the agenda comes out. How much, how far in advance are those agendas available so that local members can express them locally before it goes to them.

Mr. Hitt: Offhand, I don't know. They would have to comply like you guys do with public open meeting laws. If there's a public hearing, there's certain time frames. I think that's 14 days in advance or if it's just an agenda, 24 hours in advance, but they have to comply with it just like you do, City of Tucson and other entities.

City Attorney Paladini: I think there's two issues here with the Council to think about, I guess, if you want to put this on another agenda. One is, do you have the ability to have Council input on particular items that are coming before the RTA Board. The problem with that is going to be simply timing. If the timing doesn't dovetail right, you're not going to have a Council meeting in enough time to have, to get consensus to the Mayor to bring to that meeting. So, that's kind of like legislative issues now, it's all about timing, but I think what you're trying to do is kind of come up with a general position statement of the City when it comes to RTA issues that's

going to help guide the Mayor on how he votes as the RTA Board member from South Tucson. So, it's really going to be, kind of like when you adopt a legislative policy or the League adopts a legislative policy, it's impossible to get ahead of particular bills that come out because you just don't have enough time to have meetings. So, I think what you are talking about and just so Staff understands, what you are talking about is coming up with sort of a, well, rather than a policy but a position statement from the City of South Tucson when it comes to regional transit that will come from the Mayor. The Mayor, he's still going to have the vote how he thinks it's best under that position because you're not going to be able to give him specific direction every time. Is that what you were asking to do next time?

Councilor Valenzuela: Is that, can we use that position for accountability, if we have time?

City Attorney Paladini: How do you mean?

Councilor Valenzuela: So if there is a specific item and the Council and the committees choose to vote a certain way, and the Mayor -

City Attorney Paladini: You can always put a, if you know an item is going to be coming up before the RTA Board in the future and you can time it such that you could discuss that particular item on a Council agenda in sufficient time before that meeting, then sure, you can vote on particular RTA, the City's particular RTA issues, I would suggest you reserve that for a big deal, make decisions, not micromanage Mayor's decision. You have a position statement and the Mayor or whoever in the future is going to be that representative for the City, has an idea where the Council wants to be on generally, but if you get enough lead time, then certainly you can vote on the big issues and the major issues in advance of an RTA Board decision. Ok?

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

City Attorney Paladini: Like I said,

(Multiple people speaking simultaneously)

City Attorney Paladini: Here's what I would suggest, if you are inclined to not share with each other but send to Manager your idea of what the City's position statement should be and then we will try to cobble something together and bring it back to you and then you can discuss it, debate it, and come up with a City of South Tucson position statement when it comes to regional transit. It's going to be a little bit more than a mission statement but less than tactics of how to get something done. It's going to be a big picture and an idea.

Acting Mayor Rogers: It's going to be a 3-3 vote.

Vice Mayor Lopez: I would like to let this Council know that the projects are planned within a 20-year increments ahead. So now the RTA is planning for the next set of construction sites or whatever they might be, for the future. So if we plan on doing something in the City of South Tucson, we've got to get on it right now and start planning it so that when the RTA leadership asks us for input as to what is it you want done in your community, they'll be part of the whole discussion to vote yes or no on that total package.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Right.

Vice Mayor Lopez: That is how we get across to implementation, by voting.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, and I think we as the Council need to be engaged and be aggressively put forward our residents' desires and needs, because I think we get overlooked a lot. But hell, we got one vote out of, we've got as many votes as Tucson, Pima County, and so it's a chance for us to really do something for our residents, I feel. So we need to be engaged and aggressive, that's kind of the point of it all.

Mayor Diaz: But I guess what we established before was chain of command where even the Council can go to a committee member or even the City Manager here and express their desires to have something done in the RTA Board or committees, get those ideas because we're not stuck with a budget, per se, but what happens is, for example, this item that we're going to discuss later, the fact that safety is an issue and if we see a corner getting a lot of wrecks and stuff like that, we have the right to ask the RTA to put it on a special project for some kind of, to get something done with that corner. But by the same token, the money is not at the RTA, it goes to PAG under something else, maybe. So we have a lot of avenues that we can ask for instead of having it wait til it gets to the 20-year plan or the region to discuss this. If you see something and you want something and the demand is there, get it going. Don't wait for me to bring it up to say something at the region.

Councilor Flagg: Right on.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Is that it? Item #13?

Mayor Diaz: Does that complete Item #12?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Item #12 is slum and blighted properties.

Mayor Diaz: Item #11.

City Attorney Paladini: You need to have a motion to go into Executive Session.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Mr. Mayor, I make a motion that we go to Executive Session.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: So the Motion is for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the attorney or attorneys of the public body; Options for dealing with slum and blighted properties. So the motion is to go into Executive Session. We have a Motion and is there a Second?

Acting Mayor Rogers: I Seconded it.

Mayor Diaz: So we are going into Executive Session.

Councilor Flagg: Do we have to vote on it?

Mayor Diaz: I forgot about that. Yes. Roll Call.

Ms. Moreno:

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Councilor Romero. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Aye.

Councilor Flagg. Aye.

Councilor Valenzuela. Aye.

Acting Mayor Rogers: The A.R.S. should be put in there, be sure to put the A.R.S. in there.

7:39 p.m. - Council exits Regular Session Meeting and enters into Executive Session.

Mayor Diaz: I need a Motion to exit Executive Session and re-enter into Regular Session.

Vice Mayor Lopez: So moved.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Second.

Mayor Diaz: It's been Moved and Seconded. Discussion or Roll Call?

Ms. Moreno: Roll Call.

Vice Mayor Lopez. Yes.

Councilor Romero. Yes.

Acting Mayor Rogers. Aye.

Mayor Diaz. Yes.

Councilor Flagg. Yeah.

Councilor Valenzuela. Yes.

Mayor Diaz: Motion passes.

8:39 p.m. - Council exits Executive Session and enters into Council Regular Session Meeting.

Mayor Lopez: Item #13.

ITEM #13 - STUDY SESSION: GENERAL FUND - OVERVIEW & FY2024 BASELINE BUDGET (PRELIMINARY)

Ms. Moreno: Yes, Mayor and Members of the Council. The next Item on the agenda is a Study Session regarding the General Fund, an overview of the fiscal year 2024 Baseline Budget, a preliminary budget. So I'll have Finance Director go over this last Item on the agenda for this evening.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you Manager, Mr. Mayor and Members of the Council. Hopefully this will be as brief as possible but there are a couple things I really want to present to you and that is the reason why, first of all I want to thank all of you for your patience, because I did not include this Baseline Budget in your report. I'm still working on it and need a little more time. I've been able to make highlights and notes on this report. After this meeting I will then upload it to my system, ok, that's why it looks a little different from the system reports that you get. But this is going to be going into the system. So what I have done on this report here is added letters to the top of the columns so that we can easily identify them. Real briefly, and just for the record, I will go through each column and let you know what is in each column. So this is a nine-page report, it's a preliminary baseline budget for the General Fund. Column A includes all of the budget that was approved for fiscal year 2023. This was approved last summer. Column B includes all of the actual revenues and expenditures received through the end of February. Column C lets you know where you are at with unexpended, or unearned, revenue expenditures as of the end of February. Now Column D, Column D is where we are projecting where we think we are going to be at the end of the fiscal year, at the end of June 30th. Column E shows you the unearned, or unexpended revenues and expenditures in comparison to the budget at the end of the year, where we think we are going to be. Column F is the baseline budget for next

year starting July 1st. Column G basically compares budget for fiscal '23 to the budget for fiscal '24. So, Column G is basically comparing Columns A and F. The purpose for me going through this if there is anybody from the community or anywhere else that is listening to our audio, if they access this recording online, they can track along and know pretty much what's included in these figures. So real quick, we're going to go on to page 9, the very last page, the very last page of this report, page 9. Under Column A, these numbers should be very familiar to you all because this is the budget we are working with this year. So Column A, revenues. And I need to point this out you because I was working with a download of data from my books. It's reflected with a negative for revenues, because in accounting a negative is really a positive. It's really good, revenues are credits. Don't mind that. Once we get this uploaded into the system it's going to reflect just like you are used to seeing it. But the negatives for revenues are not a bad thing. Ok, so Column A, you all adopted, or the Council that was in place last summer adopted a budget with \$6.2 in revenues and \$6.2 million in expenditures. There was a deficit at that point, there was a deficit of \$41,000. Now let's jump to Column D. This is where we think we are going to end up at the end of the fiscal year in June. We think that we are going to end up with a surplus, a surplus of \$439,000 at the end of this fiscal year. \$439,000 surplus. And so you will see if you go through the detail, pages 1-8, where that's coming from, what we are looking at, where we are going next year. Budget for fiscal '24. We are looking at revenues of \$6.7, almost \$6.8 million, and expenditures of \$6.6 million giving you an additional \$167,000 in surplus. So combined between this year and next year you may have approximately \$600,000 to work with. And that's not including what's in Fund Balance. That doesn't include what is on the financials as your savings or Fund Balance policy. So this is \$600,000 that you will have to work with in addition to just operating expenditures that we've have accounted for. Why is this important? Because I know you all how very important decisions coming up. It's very important to know how much money you have on hand, ok, how much money we are accounting for, \$600,000, right there off the bat.

Councilor Flagg: How confident are you about that? Money in the bank?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, Councilor Flagg, I feel very confident.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Ms. Aguirre: Very, very confident, ok. Mr. Mayor, Councilor Valenzuela.

Councilor Valenzuela: Is this like historically a larger amount than past? I can always go back and see previous years in this document, but do you think this is historically good?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, Councilor Valenzuela, I think it has progressively led to this. I think there is a couple of factors coming up. There's sales tax revenue collections, they're still holding steady, they're growing at a pretty consistent pace. And also, there is a couple of areas where we haven't spent all of our budgeted expenditures. We are still conservative. We are going to look at those areas as we go through this budget. All in all, I think overall the City is in a much better position and does have savings that is generated through one-time occurrences over the last couple of years, but it's put you in a better position.

Councilor Flagg: So what do they call it, the Covid money, ARPA money? Like, that's over with and done with and isn't making your budget different and weird. That's history now.

Ms. Aguirre: Well, Mr. Mayor and Councilor Flagg, there are some needs that we need to address in the budget, and that will be addressed once we have those meetings with Department Heads. There's a lot of

needs for equipment that we briefed you all on and so at some point you will probably have to make the same determination that Council did last year in appropriating ARPA funds for Public Safety, ok. That is the least expensive, federal dollars are expensive, per se. And so that is one of the least expensive options. It really helped this fiscal year as you can tell with our projected actuals, so that just opens possibilities for you all. So let's go back to page 1 and I am going to try to be brief and give you an overview. So back to page 1 where it says for total taxes, we're looking at an increase of \$117,000. That's with a projected increase of 3% on current budgeted revenues. I am still going to keep an eye on those levels and if there is an opportunity to increase it based on trends, I will do that. I always like to err on the side of being more conservative but if that is something I notice is occurring I will let you all know. Now, intergovernmental revenue. This is all the state shared revenue dollars that come from the State. So it covers anything from urban revenue which is income tax, state sales tax, vehicle license tax, and it also includes HURF, Highway Users Revenue Fund. But that is a restricted fund so that is not included in your General Fund today. I am going to go ahead and hand out this very good publication that was published by the League of Cities and Towns and it gives you a description of all those state shared revenues, what they do and what they cover, where they come from. You can look it over when you get a chance. Interestingly enough, you may recall that during the last meeting where I presented to you all a financial overview and one of the challenges we were looking at was a drop in state shared revenues, particularly the income tax. There is going to be a sweep coming down the line beginning as soon as 2025 and it was going to start growing from now on. That still holds true, however, if you look at this report you will notice there at Column G for urban revenue sharing there's an increase of \$339,000. This is one-time, one-time revenue that the State has made available to cities and towns. And as a matter of fact, the increase, it appears they increased their estimate by an additional 3% overall, and this was to compensate for the flat income tax rate that's coming of 2.5%. So because they made it a flat tax, income tax of 2.5%, they're offering cities and towns a one-time opportunity to increase it.

Councilor Flagg: They're going to screw us in the long run, right? So that's why they did that token thing.

Ms. Aguirre: So, long term revenue you see in here. You also saw a slight increase in state sales tax of \$29,000 and that's pretty typical of what we see year to year. And then, we do see a decrease in vehicle license tax of \$12,000. Also HURF is going to be experiencing a decrease as well of about \$12,000 as well.

Councilor Flagg: Didn't we lose money because the Census was a Trump Census and it gave us dirt and we went from 5,000 to 4,000 population?

Acting Mayor Rogers: 6,200.

Councilor Flagg: So how does that come out in here, because that's intergovernmental, right?

Ms. Aguirre: Correct. Mr. Mayor, Councilor Flagg, had it not been for that Decennial Census count we would be looking at level almost 20%, almost 18-20% higher than what we are looking at right now.

Councilor Flagg: Damn.

Ms. Aguirre: However, luckily, the State's overall pot of revenue sales tax collections have grown.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, they got a lot of money.

Ms. Aguirre: So in the end the City pretty much got the same amount it had been getting.

Councilor Flagg: Really?

Councilor Valenzuela: But in the future it could affect our increase?

Ms. Aguirre: Well, yeah, it is going to affect our increase for the next nine or ten years. Yeah, our revenues levels would be higher, no doubt.

Councilor Valenzuela: Can we discuss that at our next meeting, an option to possibly challenge the Census?

Ms. Aguirre: I know that our, Mr. Mayor and Councilor Valenzuela, I know that our attorney at the other jurisdiction where he also works is aware of particulars surrounding that type of request.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: I think there's costs involved, and you have to really outweigh whether it's more cost effective than what you stand to lose.

Councilor Valenzuela: Ok.

Councilor Flagg: Do the League of Cities and Towns, they probably have positions and done work on that, right? There's other cities like us in the same boat that got done in, right?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, Councilor Flagg, there were, we could absolutely see what their experts have to say.

Councilor Valenzuela: Great, thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Any more questions? Let's go on to licenses and permits. So basically our revenue collections are staying the same. Here in the coming months, closer to six months from now, one of the things I really want to do along with Staff as Staff permits, is to perform some sort of census of our business population to make sure that everyone who is outperforming, their business activity is actually licensed and we are billing those businesses as well as those businesses that are no longer here, make sure I'm not billing them anymore.

Councilor Flagg: Right.

Ms. Aguirre: So we are going to be performing that type of census, per se, so we get a better idea where our revenues are going but for now just base it off our estimates. One thing that really calls our attention here is building permits, building permits. Go ahead and draw your attention to that line item there, it's on page 1, which is kind of mid-way through your report there, building permits. So take a look first at Column A. The budget this year is \$78,000, \$78,000, and that is based on historical trends. Now jump over to Column B. As of February, the City Clerk's Office had collected, or the Development Services Office, had collected \$109,000 as of February. That right there surpassed our budget estimated for the entire year. Collections, \$109,000. That surpassed the estimate of \$78,000. So I am projecting at least \$120,000, I mean, if it continues with that trend, at least \$120,000 through the end of the fiscal year.

Councilor Flagg: So that means there's a lot of building going on here.

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor Diaz, Councilor Flagg, yes, that is correct. I don't know if the Manager would want to touch base on that.

Ms. Moreno: I can, I can definitely do that. There was a change in staffing within the front office that gave me an opportunity to really look at this and gave me an opportunity to revamp what's going on. I've been looking at forms, I've been looking at formulas, and working closely with Lourdes to make sure we are capturing all the fees associated with processing these applications because there is a lot going on in South

Tucson. I hope you all see it. It can be anywhere from a remodel to general repairs permit, to increasing someone's electrical average, so all that comes with fees. So I think that in reviewing this, there have been permits issued, but there are other things that are assessed as well. So as I am looking at these fees and I'm looking in comparison to other cities and towns, I think there is also a possibility to increase our rates. We are probably one of the lowest when I talk about the fees that we charge for permits. The fees we charge even for an address change, we're have a fee for that. You go down to the other city downtown, they're charging a \$45.00 fee. That's time, that's paper, that's ink, taking the permit from start to finish there is a fee. So revamping in the process, making sure those are correct. And since I am on the topic of permits, the next Council meeting, just so you know, I plan to bring the 2018 IBC Codes to be adopted which are the most recent International Building Codes. That's what IBC is. But I also the right to City of South Tucson to have the ability to, as needed, we talk to Pima County because there's so much development going on that is new to our Inspector and from time to time he needs assistance with planning review and things like that. Those are the things that we can imbed into our fees, but that's important to look at. But definitely adopting the 2018 IBC Codes. I know Mayor Diaz had asked about that previously but also have the ability to reach out to, as needed, assistance from Pima County.

Councilor Flagg: And what about impact fees?

Ms. Moreno: Impact fees, that is something that we started to look at and we're still looking at, we've been working with the attorney. He has his own opinion about how it would help South Tucson as far as generate revenue and how it would not, and it's worth taking a look at that to see how it would help us. And the way he explained it to me, he said impact fees are mostly geared towards new development, which would require infrastructure and like new streets and sidewalks, and he said that's not really what is taking place in South Tucson. So I want to get a better understanding on what impact fees are and how it can benefit the City of South Tucson. Because when we talk about increase in fees and increase in permits, how those tie in together.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, because developers are subsidized by cities and towns because they don't have to pay impact fees. So we need to figure out the South Tucson equivalent to that, I feel.

Ms. Moreno: Right, absolutely.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you, City Manager.

Ms. Moreno: You're welcome.

Ms. Aguirre: I thought that was really, really good to point out. So we're using an estimate for next year as well, \$120,000. That's quite a jump, \$42,000 increase. With regard to the next section, court fines and fees, it's still a little early to tell, I'm budgeting with the same amount as this year, \$90,000. If you look at Column B, page 2, Column B, for total fines and fees. The actuals as of the end of February were \$55,000 and I did a year-over-year comparison. It looks like it is tracking at least 10% above. But what I do not know is if this is due to collections from cases that are just now catching up. We have been without a prosecutor or if there is any other type of variable playing a role in this. So I want to consult with Staff, maybe prosecutors, to see what it is they are really thinking is leading into these numbers and why we are trending 10% above last year before we make a determination and increase the overall budget for next year. So for now, staying the same at \$90,000, but know that in the back of your head. And here really soon especially during tax season,

whoever owes money, their tax refunds are intercepted by the government. So you see an influx for that. March, April, May, the beginning of May is when we see a big influx of those collections.

Councilor Flagg: That trickles down to us.

Ms. Aguirre: Correct. Yes, it does. So here I will be keeping you all up to date and if I see it is worth increasing our budget for next year, I will go ahead and do that and let you all know. So now going on to page 2, overall what you see there towards the middle of the page is just our standards income, which has a restricted budget of its own so that's why you don't see anything on the budget for next year. Anything that is seized, miscellaneous income, off-duty revenue from vehicles used by Police, you know, your smaller amounts, lien payoffs, so I'm including some money in the budget for lien payoffs because I've seen that consistently year over year. Some of the older properties that had some of the older liens are being sold and we are being able to collect on those. So that's why we just got one in the other day with \$4,000. That's something, so I'm estimating \$7,000 for next year for liens. With regards to, now, expenditures. You start off with City Manager's budget on page 2. What this includes is, and I'm going to let you know right off the bat for all departments, we took all of our salaries, calculated benefits based on the salaries you all approved for this fiscal year. That's why you will see that the amounts are the same, fiscal '23, fiscal '24, the salaries are. What changes a bit are the benefits if there's been a change. For instance, in insurance or if there's been a change in retirement rates. With all the other discretionary and fixed expenses, fixed expenses being those expenses such as utilities, contracts, those types of things we cannot do anything about. We have to pay them, we have to keep the lights on. And then discretionary, you know, being all the other supplies we need to conduct business, our paper, our pens, things of that nature. I took all fixed and discretionary, and I increased by 5%. So this whole budget that I am showing you here, you saw the bottom line, it includes a 5% increase on all fixed and discretionary. On salaries again, it only accounts for benefits that experience increases. On the City Manager's budget, what I want to draw your attention to is attorney. You all know you approved a contract for \$80,000 for six months, but that came with a prosecutor, an attorney, it's an entire firm. That was really good, but the agreement is going to end here in June and in May we need to go into negotiations with you all. So just keep that in the back of your mind. But what we put in here, and like I mentioned to you, I increased this budget by 5%. So that's why you see it go from \$145,000 in this fiscal, it goes to \$164,000 for next.

Councilor Flagg: You think they're going to raise their price?

Ms. Moreno: Absolutely. Mayor Diaz, Lourdes, Councilor Flagg, I would say an average between \$6 to \$8,000 more per month. That's my guesstimate. We have a meeting with them later this week to go over it, that's my estimate, it has yet to be determined so you can kind of figure out how that looks at the end of one whole fiscal year. But I will say, I will say, not that I'm here to be their cheerleaders, but I think having a law firm that has expertise in the areas we need Staff wise, it's like a world of difference having that guidance, here's what you need to do, etc.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, right. Yeah, from where you sit it's been pretty positive, yeah.

Ms. Moreno: Yeah, everything's been positive, we feel good about it.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you City Manager. So that was one of the areas I wanted to draw your attention to. Let's go to page 3, on page 3. So under Courts, you will see attorney services, Column A. The budget for this year

was \$15,180 and that was to be able to pay and/or appoint a Public Defender, a separate Public Defender for conflict of interest. They call them conflict attorneys. And so the Public Defender is listed with the attorneys in the City Manager's budget with the Prosecutor and City Attorney. This line item is for the conflict attorney. I don't know why but as of February there has only been \$350 spent. I don't know if there's any cases that are being worked on, not completed, for which we will receive an invoice at some point. I am going to check in with the Courts with this as well but basically for next year I put \$15,000 plus 5%, but I am letting you all know so it's in the back of your minds in the event you want to reduce it or ask questions.

Councilor Valenzuela: Can we get a report on how many cases were active?

Ms. Aguirre: From the Public Defender?

Councilor Valenzuela: From the whole Court. I just want to know our expenditures and how many.

Councilor Flagg: And then there's no conflict cases, or \$350 worth of a conflict case, maybe, right?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, Mr. Mayor, Councilor Flagg,

Councilor Flagg: Because the County has a whole department that does that.

Acting Mayor Rogers: That's because of the population.

Councilor Flagg: Legal Defender's office, that's what they do. In addition to the, it happens there but doesn't seem to happen here.

Ms. Aguirre: And I think that under the previous Judge,

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: There was the intent to do that. She's actually the one that requested that money, the \$15,000 for conflict attorney from Mayor and Council but I just don't know what's been done with it, with the current Judge.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: Office supplies are actually contracts, contracts in the Courts, that includes the Supreme Court agreement that we have for computers, because all the computers you see here in the Courts are not City computers. It's not City network, it's all the AOC's, Administrative Office of the Courts. So they lease it to our Courts. It's training and a Judge, the Judge's budget is also in contracts, right. Let's go on to page 4. So here we have, back into the City Clerk's budget, which is only experiencing a \$800 increase, that's with the 5% increase on the fixed and the discretionary expenses. So with regard to Finance, if there's an increase of \$5,800, it is mostly coming from an increase in audit fees where we received the RFP earlier this year for services, and so they usually give us the quote based on a sliding scale and they are the least expensive, as you see on the RFP. So that's basically where the increase is coming from. With regards to IT, we can look at page 5 for the total. That's basically gone up \$4,900 and that's mostly because we are accounting for everything accurately. So there's the IT contract which you all approved. That one's been going for \$55,000. That was the first time Mayor and Council increased it this year to \$55,000. What's also in this line item here, contracts for \$72,000 is our monthly licenses. So we get our license for Microsoft or other software through our IT because they get these in large quantities, large volumes, and then we get it for a reduced cost. So collectively we pay \$1,100 a month for them. That's what is embedded in that contract amount of \$72,000. Page 5,

Development Services. So you all have noticed by now we have a Planning Development Director now on board, Mr. Josue Licea, and we also have a Code Enforcer and Building Inspector as well. I don't know if you all want to make a note here but where I put Note, Development Services, plus 15% for the last four months for a full-time assistant, that pertains to fiscal year '23, not fiscal '24. So for fiscal year '23 we are projecting they are going to have approximately a little more than \$30,000 in savings from vacancies in Development Services. But that had to cover the cost of contract we had on board with City through August, and you will see there it went a little bit, quite a bit, over budget. Some invoices were turned in late in the year and they pertained to prior fiscal, so that's where you see that. In Column E you see a runoff of \$24,000, so it kind of offset what your City spends in salaries and benefits.

Councilor Flagg: Isn't that a place like where South Tucson really lacks in the building inspectors and all that stuff? Especially when we go back to that thing of how building permits have gone a whole a lot because I hear stuff, the stuff you hear out there is that people are not happy with the building inspector thing. So I'm going to think about beefing that money up. Maybe that's a question more for Veronica. You've been here.

Ms. Moreno: Can you explain that one more time for what you're talking about for everyone and the Mayor. Are you talking like more bodies out in the field?

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, 'cuz like, maybe we're in a position where we have money because we haven't, we don't have enough building inspectors, so that type of thing.

Ms. Moreno: I think all of us combined have always building this budget.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Moreno: So when we see a little bit of a surplus, we are very hesitant about do we, or don't we, and we do what we can with what we have, what we know we have.

Councilor Flagg: Ok.

Ms. Moreno: We don't want to overspend and go over budget. So what we do, like recently our Code Enforcement who was a full-time Code Enforcement was applying for his building certification because the full-time inspector was getting ready to retire. So he was getting ready to retire, the Code Enforcement person was working on his certification. When the inspector retired, he was able to move into that position. So he was working in a dual role. So we have a Code Enforcement with building inspection. So that is the whole rationale behind what I said to you earlier about giving an idea for assistance with some of those area that we call more technical stuff. But I do agree with, and I do talk with the Planning Director about there is money there if he wants for assistance.

Mayor Diaz: Excuse me, right now we are dealing with information regarding the preliminary draft budget as part of the study, and we only have three meetings to go through the whole process, correct?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yes.

Mayor Diaz: So all these items can be addressed other times because we will have more information to put them in different categories so they still, all those figures and stuff will have to be added into there, so we will get a chance to do that. Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, you are correct, Mr. Mayor and Councilor Flagg. I am going to let you know I am making note of it so as we are working through it, we can come back and give you guys an estimate of what those ideas or those wants might cost. So we'll definitely do that.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, good, ok.

Ms. Aguirre: I know that they are at a place right now to, like the City Manager had mentioned, where we are at back in the entire process. Now you see the fruits of going through that process and becoming a little more efficient, it brought in more money on the permit side. So they are going to be doing this throughout the rest of the process, so Development Services, they did a prior software a couple years ago that they are going to start going to be using now that is going to be designed to interlock all parcels and make things just a little more smooth, more efficient, not only for them but for the public as well. And so hopefully that is something we finish up in the coming months. So it's about coming more efficient in the coming months so as we go through that process the question is then really, do you really need more bodies. Just think about that as well. And if you have an IGA with Pima County for assistance with planning and review, things like that, of that nature, then maybe that's a more cost-effective way, I don't know, food for thought.

Councilor Flagg: Yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: Nonetheless, one of the areas that we did notice that they need help with is the administrative part of it. The tracking, the documents, all the administrative that comes with that. So I think that is one of the things that the Director has worked in the budget, just to use the money smarter, ok, and stretch those dollars a bit. So that's what this is about. So for the last four months of this fiscal year, I included an additional 15% to account for what if we do go ahead and hire a full-time assistant for them to do all the clerical work that they can't tend to because they are out in the field. So that's what that was about. So going forward to the Fire Department, this is an important one, ok. I will walk you guys through this. In the Fire Department you see there where it says state retirements. State retirements go all the way over to Column F. It says \$244,000 in state retirement. That was the calculation based on having those, I think it was three full-time bodies on the budget. But it went down because our original budget this year was \$418,000, almost \$419,000. So that went down \$174,000. One of the contributing factors for this is that our sole full-time employee, for all intense purposes is retired, and in a program where the City no longer has to contribute on his position. However, I know that you are all very cognizant of the overall budget, and I did not want to reduce it by that \$174,000, so that's why I included a line that says additional pension. I added that \$174,000 there. It's still in there in that Department to be worked with by you all and if you turn over the page, on page 6, look at the net variance in Column G for the Fire Department. So we increased the budget by \$10,742.28. So there was no reduction to the budget. So now you all have \$1,072,638 to work with.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Oh, I like that.

Ms. Aguirre: Alright, so Police Department. So here is the Police Department. Another thing I want to draw your attention to is even though Police and Fire may not have positions that they have filled, even though they may have vacancies, mid-year and end of year what I do is I perform a payment, an additional payment, to PSPRS to ensure that the entire amount that was budgeted was paid. Because the way it is calculated is based on salaries that you have on staff but if you have vacancies that you haven't filled, you're going to have savings. But then it's just the vicious cycle, so you want to stay ahead and you want to stay on top of our pension debt. So I go ahead and perform the payment of what was budgeted. It is for that reason that under

Police Department for state retirement, you will notice that in Column A and in Column D, it's the same amount, \$909,000. So I'm basically showing you that we play to pay off everything that was budgeted. And that is actually the line item that is experiencing an increase, the bigger increase, \$57,000. Equipment, this is going to be a little chunk of money. I calculate things I know that are coming down the pipeline, things I know we can't do anything about. Under equipment, page 6, Police Department, if you look at Column F, I highlighted it, \$221,000 in equipment. What's that for? This is going to be a requirement for our dispatch service. All of the radios such as the ones the Chief and all the Police Officers and Fire Department carry, are going to become obsolete. And the companies that service them are no longer going to carry them or make parts for them. They are going to an encrypted service with the new radios. The radios with the top of the, what did you call it, Chief?

Chief Denogean: Top of the line.

Ms. Aguirre: Top of the line, \$7,600 each. The basic ones, still encrypted, \$6,100 each. It's still extremely expensive, nonetheless, the estimate we are working with, the Chief just said a rough estimate of 45 units because they need them for, the radio for their vehicle and the radio that they carry. So 45. We're going to have a count for them, right Chief?

Chief Denogean: Yes.

Ms. Aguirre: To get an exact count of how many we need so it might be a little less than \$221,000. But this also involves the Fire Department, and we were thinking at least six radios for them. I know we need to get a good count on them, too. I did not put that amount in the Fire Department's budget because we don't know it yet. But here we have accounted for \$221,000. This \$221,000, this includes the \$20,000 that we normally do year to year for equipment, and it also includes \$201,000 for these radios. We know they are going to cost \$274,000, which is a lot. You can move it out, but I wouldn't recommend moving it out because,

Acting Mayor Rogers: Maybe we could have somebody like Electra to get like 10% off on all of them and bring them on over to you. I know somebody, 10% off.

Ms. Aguirre: 10% off. Encrypted?

Acting Mayor Rogers: Yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: Encrypted, great, that would be wonderful. So I just wanted to bring that to your attention. So, on page 7, if you all go through this, we are almost done. Page 7, overall Public Works. I've accounted for all the salaries, Public Works, then I also added the 5% on top of the fixed and discretionary. I am going to look as to why it is coming out as a difference, a variance in the budget of maybe \$1,200. Everybody else experienced an increase so I will get to that one and fix it. With regards to public buildings, ok, that's another one I want to draw your attention to, in public buildings, page 8, that budget is going down by maybe \$6,000. Mayor and Council approved in fiscal year 2023 budget to run \$50,000 for building improvement. So we are going to be looking at possibly doing life a half, maybe like half of some of these repairs and the other half, so \$100,000 for this year before year end, and \$150,000 of that we're asking to be appropriated. So essentially it was in the budget this year, we are just splitting it between this year and next.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Mr. Mayor, could she tell me, was that our roof? For two years I've been asking for the roof and do I have to do it again?

Ms. Aguirre: Yes, Mr. Mayor, Acting Mayor, the roof and I think there were other little items in there including fencing, modification, yes, we are going to work on it.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Ok.

Vice Mayor Lopez: I've got a question. Didn't we talk about getting a tractor for Public Works that was something that was needed in order for them to continue picking up the trash throughout the City?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, Vice Mayor, that is correct, and that is coming up.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Good memory. So still on page 8, Non-Departmental. Non-Departmental, one of the things we see, insurance. If you look at insurance, Column A, we budgeted for \$176,000 this year, but my note there says this year we are getting approximately \$80,000 in dividends, credits. So essentially what happens is the insurance company collects all the premiums from all the participants. They do a five-year analysis of the experience, how much their losses were. If they haven't experienced losses, what they then do is give it back to the participants in the form of dividends. So in essence, what the City will be paying is almost half of the budget for property and casualty insurance for the current year. So you might want to make a note there that those \$80,000 in dividends are for the current fiscal year. So going into next year we are budgeting for \$170,000, the normal rate. If we get notice from the Arizona Municipal Risk Retention Pool that we are going to experience another one of those, we will let you know because it's quite a bit of savings. Ok, let's work through this. I added some notes there for communications, for contracts, prisoner detainment. Prisoner detainment right now, we only got our bills through December. They are pretty low. They are very, very low. As you can tell in Column A, we budgeted for \$120,000. Column B, expenses very low, \$32,000. And that's for only, that was six months, five or six months. I am estimating we will end up at \$100,000 at the end of the fiscal year.

Councilor Flagg: Does the County give us a hard time about not paying our jail bill?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, Councilor Flagg, they did at one point when we were in arrears by almost \$1 million, and that was an accumulation of unpaid jail fees from the early 2000's. We finally settled that in 2013, 2014 and that is actually in a settlement that we pay off. I'll show you guys where that's at. But we stay on top of our bills, we pay everything now.

Councilor Flagg: So that means you're real slow to take somebody to jail, right?

City Attorney Paladini: No.

Councilor Flagg: You don't even have to answer.

Ms. Aguirre: So going into next fiscal year, I budgeted instead of \$120,000, \$110,000. So I draw your attention to contingency, page 8, contingency. Basically you all had \$191,000 in there. We had worked out a plan and we will go over that at the next meeting. So we are accounting for that plus 5%, so that's about \$201,000. So that one right there is an area. That's on top of the \$600,000 to top of that earlier. Alright, debt service. What we include in debt service is under, look at interest expense, principal repayment, that's pretty much where we put our leases for equipment. We have a couple of these for the big copier machines around the building. So that's where that is included. That's what's budgeted at. The GL accounts that say debt repayment and debt repayment for principal and interest, these two are for \$80,000 paid to the County every

October for the secondary property. And approximately \$43,000 paid at the end of the fiscal, so in June to the County for the repayment of the jail bill of those old bills. We're on a payment plan, that's what we pay. We have in here, and before I forget, let me draw your attention to this. Vice Mayor wanted to know about a rear-loader. So we got a quote from State Pricing, and the price for that is \$205,000, \$205,000, ok. That is why I calculated that right there. At this point it is probably going to be more cost effective for the City to just pay it and you can see the budget can absorb it, versus financing it. Column D, do you see where I highlighted item for contingency, \$191,000, so that's a portion to use to pay for the rear-loader and then the second one out of equipment lease, \$13,000 as well. So those two amounts combined is \$205,000 which can pay for your rear-loader. I know that old rear-loader had been dismantled and put back together, I think they called it the Frankenstein. So that's pretty much it. Your expenditures overall are experiencing an increase of \$305,000, \$305,000. And half a million in the revenues.

Acting Mayor Rogers: That's good.

Ms. Aguirre: So that gives you the net on the last page, page 9, a surplus of \$176,000, page 9, Column F. So, you combine your savings for this year so that \$176,000 surplus, that's for next year and you can pay with your contingency, \$200,000, and additionally you can pay with your savings for this year, \$400,000, that's almost \$800,000. There are quite a few needs, and we went over some of those important needs as they relate to Fire at the last meeting.

Councilor Flagg: I have a question. Page 6 on the Fire Department, it's like the budget, what I heard is the budget's \$1,072,000, so if you are going to contract out the Fire, is that what you have in your hand when you go and try to negotiate for somebody to take over Fire for us? Is that worth, I mean,

Ms. Aguirre: Absolutely, Mr. Mayor and Councilor. So you may recall this chart, it was called Exhibit -

Councilor Flagg: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Ms. Aguirre: I just want to state it for the record, Exhibit 3, ok, from the last meeting. And what this shows you all is the starting budget, the starting budget at the top of every single option, Options 1 through 5.

Councilor Flagg: Got it.

Ms. Aguirre: Then we took away from that the cost for these services. So definitely, what you see in the budget is what you can use.

Councilor Flagg: So if we have \$1,072,000, like, would whoever we are going to ask them to contract with us, would they laugh at that, or would it be a decent starting place? Do we have to double that to be in the ballgame or, does anybody here have any thoughts on that?

Ms. Aguirre: Mr. Mayor, Councilor Flagg, the estimates for those services is what we provided because in our conversations with the experts from AMR, the Inter-governmental Agency, these are the ballpark figures that we got, so that's what we were working with, the ones on Exhibit 3 from the last meeting. Nonetheless, you could potentially have \$1,000,000 in the Fire Department, and contingency \$200,000, and \$600,000 from your savings this year and next year, so already you've got \$1.6 million, \$1.8 million, but you've got to keep in mind that even if you contract your service out, you still have to continue paying the debt on the long-term debt for those that have already retired. And that amount is \$244,000. So essentially you may have \$1.6 million, \$1.8 million to work with.

Councilor Flagg: Could it go the other way?

Acting Mayor Rogers: You get 10% off.

Mayor Diaz: Let's, at least for myself, I would to see, to keep employees around as we start progressive, like a finer term, increase this other hourly wage either by \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00 and \$5.00 for twenty years, or \$2.00 per hour for the six years, because, you know, we have employees that are still at the very low wages, and right now especially for someone who can't make their rent and so forth, especially Public Works, lowest paid, some kind of progression, at least demonstrate that we looked at it, you know. I'd like to see a study done on that.

Ms. Aguirre: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So you want something based on a tenure?

Mayor Diaz: Correct, correct.

Ms. Aguirre: Longevity, longevity.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: We can definitely work that out and we made note of all your comments, so here at the next meeting, I will be here at the next meeting to present on the budget. So that will be the first meeting in April. I'll be back for the second one. But we may need to schedule, I don't know how Mayor and Council feels about scheduling a Special Meeting because it could be a lot of information to review. So I don't know if adding an additional meeting or two a month or to keep it a little shorter, especially just to focus on budget as we work through budget.

Councilor Flagg: Sounds like a good idea to me. That's better do that than have a marathon meeting like tonight, I would think. I don't know.

Ms. Aguirre: And that might give us more opportunity to go back and forth between Mayor and Council, what ideas you have, go over numbers if we have to as far as with Department Heads. So I know we give you a lot of information, I'm so sorry, so my twenty minutes took an hour, but there's so many big plans. Thank you all.

Councilor Valenzuela: Thank you, Lourdes.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Thank you.

Vice Mayor Lopez: Thank you.

Mayor Diaz: Thank you.

Ms. Aguirre: Sure, you're welcome.

ITEM #14 - ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Lopez: I move we Adjourn.

Councilor Romero: Second.

Acting Mayor Rogers: Anita Seconded.

Mayor Diaz: All in favor signify by saying Aye.

Unanimous: Aye.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Mayor _____

ATTEST:

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Regular Agenda Meeting of the City Council of South Tucson, Arizona, held on the 21st day of March, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2023.

Veronica Moreno, City Clerk